

Camp Wing goes to the dogs

K9 units hold training session

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Anyone driving past Camp Wing Thursday afternoon may have heard the sounds of more than 30 dogs barking. But these dogs weren't gathered to chase frisbees. These dogs were on the clock.

The dogs were part of a regional police K9 training exercise, led by the Barnstable County Sheriff's department.

The 30 officers present Thursday, including Duxbury K9 officer Ryan Cavicchi and



Zar, Duxbury's K9 unit, was on hand Thursday with his partner, officer Ryan Cavicchi, for training.

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Police dogs train at Camp Wing

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his dog Zar, participated in a number of training scenarios, including tracing an Alzheimer's patient who has wandered off, searching for a man lost in the woods, and going house to house looking for a criminal.

Cavicchi said he's often asked if the dog knows if it's looking for a lost child or a dangerous criminal when he's on the job.

"The answer to that is they don't know," he said. "It's up to our training ... it's black and white in their world."

K9 officers are required to complete 16 hours a month of training, Cavicchi said. Thursday's event was the first time the training has taken place in Duxbury, the sessions are usually at the Bridgewater Correctional Facility or in Barnstable.

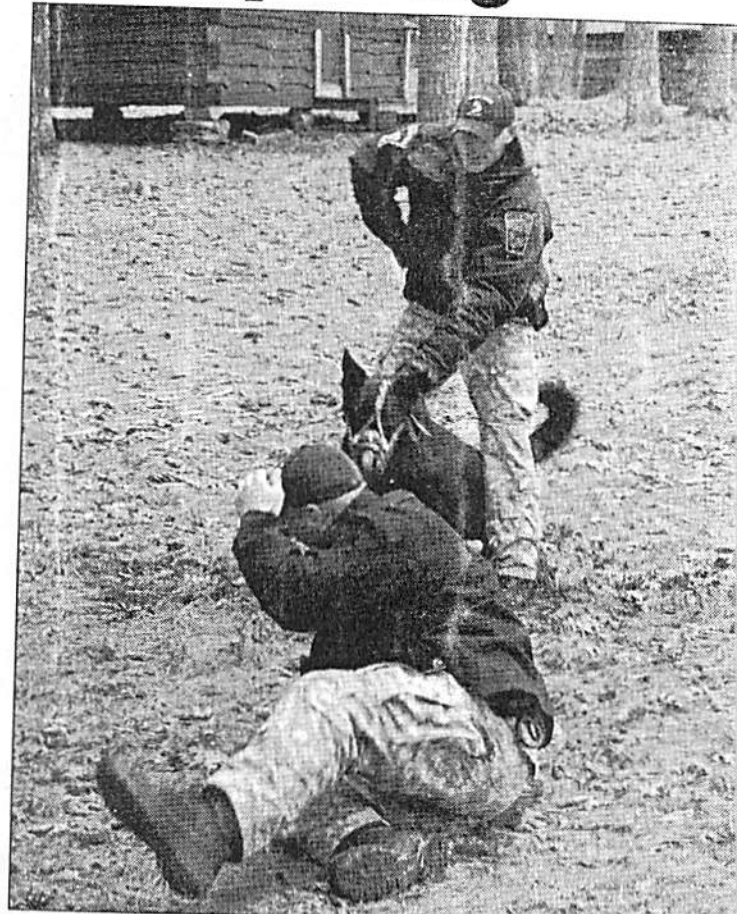
As budget cuts hit sheriff

departments and towns like Duxbury, regionalizing resources, including specialty units like K9 officers, is becoming more important. Duxbury is part of a regional group of 43 communities. A town facing a scenario where dogs are needed for a grid search or a pursuit can call on other towns for mutual aid, Cavicchi said.

"We're going to give every resource we have," he said.

Cavicchi has been working with Zar for six years. He, like most dog officers, thinks of his canine as a partner — a partner with a valuable and specialized set of skills.

"The dogs can do a lot more than humans," he said. "If the person went into the water, the dog will bring you right into the water."



Zar (wearing a muzzle) attacks "criminal" (actually Rockland officer Geoff Lucas, being a very good sport) to demonstrate how dog can be used to corral a fleeing suspect.

Duxbury K9 officer Ryan Cavicchi and Zar prepare for a training exercise at Camp Wing on Thursday.

Good Shepherd to hold harvest auction Nov. 14

Good Shepherd Christian Academy is holding their sixth Annual Harvest Auction on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. The academy is located at 2 Tremont Street.

Admission is free. The event will feature hors d'oeuvres and desserts, silent and live auctions, raffle baskets, jewelry, gift certificates, handcrafted items and much more.

